Hi, everyone! My name is Brian Leslie, and  I am a senior majoring in special education, primarily focusing on teaching students with various learning disabilities. I have lived all 21 years of my life in Michigan, and, when not in East Lansing, I live at home in Plymouth with my parents and two older brothers. One of the most important people in my life is my oldest brother, Randy, who is both autistic and mildly cognitively impaired. Randy has played an enormous role in regards to my career choice-- working with my brother, his classmates, and his Special Olympics teammates  all throughout my life has helped to solidify my passion for both special education and making a positive impact in the lives of individuals with cognitive disabilities.

In addition to serving as an assistant coach for the Special Olympics cycling team in the Plymouth-Canton area, my other hobbies and interests include any sport that you can think of-- I began playing hockey when I was six year old, and hope to someday coach at the high school level. I am a huge Red Wings fan, and I make a point to tune into as many Lions games as possible (when they're actually being televised that is).

For the past three summers, I have worked at a summer camp run through Canton township for children with special needs between 8 and 14 years of age. Working with these children has been extremely rewarding, and the experience that it has provided me with in regards to both classroom and behavior management has been irreplaceable. Working at Camp ABLE has inspired me to pursue my master's degree in teaching students with autism and severe cognitive impairments upon graduating from MSU.

At MSU, I have taken only the prerequisite science classes-- ISP 203 and its lab and ISB. As a junior, my SME instructor was excellent, and I learned so much not only about the fundamentals of science, but also how to properly present these sometimes abstract concepts to a broad range of students. After taking SME, I feel a bit better about teaching science, but I also recognize that I still have much to learn, and am excited to take this class!